

intent to take action to address the emergency. The established times for addressing items on the agenda may be adjusted as necessary to accommodate the timely completion of discussion relevant to the agenda items. In order to further allow for such adjustments and completion of all items on the agenda, the meeting may be extended from, or completed prior to the date established in this notice.

Special Accommodations

These meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Dawn Aring at the Council (see **ADDRESSES**) at least 5 working days prior to the meeting.

Dated: March 1, 2006.

Tracey L. Thompson,

Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.
[FR Doc. E6-3100 Filed 3-3-06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-S

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 022806B]

New England Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce

ACTION: Notice of a public meeting.

SUMMARY: The New England Fishery Management Council (Council) is scheduling a public meeting of its Habitat/Marine Protected Area (MPA)/Ecosystem Committee in March, 2006 to consider actions affecting New England fisheries in the exclusive economic zone (EEZ). Recommendations from this group will be brought to the full Council for formal consideration and action, if appropriate.

DATES: The meeting will be held on Monday, March 20, 2006, at 9 a.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Radisson Hotel Plymouth Harbor, 180 Water Street, Plymouth, MA 02360; telephone: (508) 747-4900; fax: (508) 746-5386.

Council address: New England Fishery Management Council, 50 Water Street, Mill 2, Newburyport, MA 01950.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Paul J. Howard, Executive Director, New England Fishery Management Council; telephone: (978) 465-0492.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Committee will review and recommend for Council consideration Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) designation alternatives for inclusion in Phase 1 of the EFH Omnibus Amendment. In addition, the committee will be briefed on any proposed non-fishing projects that may adversely affect EFH in the northeast U.S. and will discuss the EFH consultation elevation process, and they may also be briefed on the progress and status of ecosystem-based fisheries management within the National Marine Fisheries Service. Other topics may be covered at the committee's discretion.

Although non-emergency issues not contained in this agenda may come before this group for discussion, those issues may not be the subject of formal action during this meeting. Action will be restricted to those issues specifically listed in this notice and any issues arising after publication of this notice that require emergency action under section 305(c) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act, provided the public has been notified of the Council's intent to take final action to address the emergency.

Special Accommodations

This meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Paul J. Howard, Executive Director, at (978) 465-0492, at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*

Dated: February 28, 2006.

Tracey L. Thompson,

Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.
[FR Doc. E6-3098 Filed 3-3-06; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 022806C]

North Pacific Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce

ACTION: Notice of a public meeting.

SUMMARY: The North Pacific Fishery Management Council's (Council) Charter Halibut Stakeholder Committee will meet in Anchorage, AK.

DATES: The meeting will be held on March 21-23, 2006. The meeting will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Anchorage Hilton Hotel, 500 West 3rd Avenue, Dillingham Room, Anchorage, AK 99501.

Council address: North Pacific Fishery Management Council, 605 W. 4th Ave., Suite 306, Anchorage, AK 99501-2252.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jane DiCosimo, Council staff, telephone: (907) 271-2809.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Halibut Stakeholder Committee will identify common principles and goals to develop a problem statement and define two alternatives for a future analysis. One alternative would be an allocation based program. Elements to be included in the plan should include, but not be limited to:

1. A percentage based allocation that would float up and down with abundance in a fashion similar to the commercial longline Total Allowable Catch (TAC);

2. Subdivision of Area 2C and 3A into smaller geographic sub-districts, including time certain establishment of local area management plans (LAMPs) and super-exclusive registration areas;

3. Management measures that will be used to enforce the allocation, including:

a. the current suite of measures to reduce harvests under the Guideline Harvest Level (GHL) (i.e., one trip per vessel per day, no harvest by skipper and crew, and annual limit of 5 or 6 fish per person (for Area 2C only));

b. Measures being pursued by the State of Alaska in 2006, including:

i. a halibut reporting requirement in charter boat logbooks with methodology to ensure accuracy;

ii. a proposed regulation to the Board of Fish to prohibit retention or harvest of fish by skipper and crew members when clients are on board; and

iii. limit the number of lines fished to the number of clients;

c. Other annual bag limits;

d. Limitations on days fished (either total number of days or by excluding specific days of the week);

e. Reduced daily limits including size limitations for the second fish caught;

f. Subtraction of any allocation exceedence from the following year's allocation;

g. Federal moratorium or control date of December 9, 2006 and/or a State limited entry program with delayed transferability;

h. Mechanisms which, if the charter harvest continues to grow, would allow